

SECRET

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

INSTRUCTIONS: Officer designations should be used in the "TO" column. Under each comment a line should be drawn across sheet and each comment numbered to correspond with the number in the "TO" column. Each officer should initial (check mark insufficient) before further routing. This Routing and Record Sheet should be returned to Registry.

FROM:

SE/EX KR

NO.

1854-1854 844 + 5418

DATE

7 Aug. 53

TO	ROOM NO.	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS
		REC'D	FWD'D		
1. SE/1		AUG 13 1953	AUG 14 1953	y	Ans. SGAW 2767 COPY DETACHED FOR SE-1
2. []				PLM	VITAL DOCUMENTS FILE
[]			31 Oct	OK	
[]			29 Oct	AB	
4. []				MD	-has seen nothing worth dissem.
[]				LM	
[]			14 May	OK	indexed.
7. []					BY HAND ONLY
8. []					
9. []					
10. []					
11. []					
12. []					
13. []					
14. []					
15. []					

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

VIA: AIR
(Specify air or sea pouch)

Dispatch No.

Wash
~~KAPOK~~ # 1854
SGAA 5418

~~KAPOK~~
SECURITY INFORMATION
CLASSIFICATION

AUG 7 1953

To : Chief, SE

Date

Attn: ☐

FROM : Senior Representative, ☐ *JAC*

SUBJECT: GENERAL- BGFIEND/PARAM
SPECIFIC- Willow Team Debriefing

REF: SATHE-4307, 30 July 1953

1. The 5 man Willow Tree Team crossed the Greek border at Gobel on 26 July and was dispatched to Athens for interrogation on the 29th. Willow Team arrived in good physical condition and in very high spirits. Though we are unable to say that Willow's information was of a high calibre, we can nevertheless say that their existence as a team is justified by their general handling of this mission. The story of Willow's mission follows:

a. Willow Team crossed the border at 2100 hours on 5 July at Gobel. Their first contact was made on 7 July with Tosum Ali of Kamenic who was informed about the team's needs. At 1000 on the 7th one Sherif Kalo saw the group, subject was known to the team and it was felt that Kalo could be trusted not to talk. At midnight on the 7th Willow left the appropriate signs to notify Istref Metka that they were in the area. At 1000 hours on the 8th Willow met Metka who gave them some information and arranged to supply the team with food on the 10th. On 9 July at 1100 the group contacted Shefik Asslani and arranged for food on their return, the contact date was set for 25 July. At 1000 hours on the 10th Ali Riza Selim contacted the team and was instructed to furnish them with bread. At 1700 hours Istref Metka arrived as per their prearranged contact. He supplied the team with the Lek and some information and arrangements were made to establish another "dead letter drop." On 11 July at 2200 hours Ali Riza Selim returned with bread and newspapers and was given further instructions by the group. At 0200 hours on 12 July the group arrived at the home of Ilmi Sulloli at Voskop where arrangements were made for food on the exfiltration route. Signals were arranged whereby Sulloli would be notified that the group was in the area and a spot was arranged where the food would be picked up. After leaving Voskop, Willow Team began its move Northward to make their contacts at Tresova. The team's route took them through Goskove, Damjanrc on the 13th and Goce on the 14th where Ferik Petrite was contacted. The team remained in this general area until the evening of the 16th. At 2100 hours Hoxha and Sulloli went to Tresova to arrange for a meeting with Ramadan Bajram Tresova. On the 18th at 2200 the team leader met with Ferik Petrit and Skender Mehmet Shehu at Mali Skozes. Some information was received during this meeting and at the same time arrangements were made to have Adam Agolli come for a meeting on the following day. Agolli arrived at 1530 on the 19th. After this contact Willow started

its route back

~~KAPOK~~
SECURITY INFORMATION
CLASSIFICATION

4 JUN 4 1953

~~K A P O K~~

SECURITY INFORMATION
SECRET

SGAA- 5419
Page 2

its route back to base. On 20 July the group arrived at Mali Goce where they remained until the evening of the 21st. The 22nd found the team in Damjanic, the 23rd they were at Goskove where Gani Muharram was contacted. He supplied the team with food and some information. On the 24th and 25th the team remained in the general area of Ramenic and crossed the border at 0400 on the 26th at Gobel.

b. Willow was unable to keep all of its prearranged contacts due to the increased activity by security units in their area.

2. Positive Information (for dissemination)

a. Sometime in May one Ramadan Dovarani ^{no trace} was killed by the security patrols at Nikolice - Dovarani, according to information, was a member of a Greek Team.

b. Security forces are boasting in all the villages that they have killed and captured over 300 reactionaries this year who have been sent into the country by the enemies of the people.

c. The security forces are now being helped by all military units and armed civilians when the need arises.

d. At the present time newspapers can only be had by regular subscribers.

e. Leks are presently being sold at 25 per dollar, 350 per gold pound.

f. The 2nd Division is at Korca, CO is Colonel Skender Palini ^{see card attached}, with units at Vithkuq - Gjomomath and ^Hochiste with artillery units at Zemblak and Pijase. One of the 2nd Division Supply Depots is in the village of Borje, next to the brewery. The depot is guarded by between 25 and 30 soldiers.

g. On 8 July Rexhep Kreka ^{no trace} and his 2 aides arrived in Kamenice to gather taxes and quotas. No one was allowed to leave the village on that day. All persons unable to fill their quotas had their livestock taken from them. An unknown security Major and Sabudin Gjomomath ^{see card attached} also visited Kamenic on that day. Gjomomath is the civilian responsible for informers in the Korca area.

h. On 1 June an airplane flying very high was spotted going in the direction of Voskopoje. On 3 June 3 airplanes were seen flying from Devole in the direction of Korca.

i. Food prices. Since 1 June there has been a marked decrease in the price of corn meal; prior to 1 June it was 130 Lek per kilo, the present price is 65 Lek per kilo. Flour is not to be sold until the government quota is filled.

SECURITY INFORMATION
SECRET

Other food prices

~~K A P O K~~

~~K A P O K~~
SECURITY INFORMATION
SECRET

SGAA- 5418
Page 3

Other food prices on the open market:

Butter	500-600	Lek per kilo
Cheese, top grade	400-420	" " "
Cheese, 2nd grade	200-220	" " "
Olives	50	" " "
Corn bread	60	" " "
Meat	110	" " "

j. On 10 July ^{no trace} Seladin Muslim, Director of the State Store in Mocan, was arrested when a shortage of 60,000 Lek was found in his accounts.

On the same date ^{no trace} Sect Dolani from Dolan was also arrested because of a shortage of 42,000 Lek. Dolani was the collector of quotas for his area.

k. Depots. Between Varisht and Tresova there is a depot guarded by one company of soldiers. Informants state that light arms, including light machine guns and ammo are stored there.

1. Bridges

Maliq constructed on cement and iron - has eight supports

Verbe (Strelce) bridge constructed of wood with some iron - has one center support.

Turan - cement and steel construction - four supports

× Progozhine - cement and iron construction - six supports.

m. On 17 May two ships believed to be Russian, the Ceturi and Zorre, were unloaded by soldiers. Informant, who was working in Durres at the time, did not know what the cargo was.

n. A 2100 hours curfew is enforced on all villagers, if night work is required to fulfill the government quotas permission is granted for persons to be away from their home after 2100 hours.

o. "The latest security move has brought about an order from Tirana, that all border units are to be alerted for 6 day periods from the date that a reactionary group is reported inside the country.

p. In May of this year a two man group from Yugoslavia was informed on by one of their contacts. The two men, prior to being killed, were able to liquidate the head of the village council, the secretary of the Organization Bazi, a captain of police and three soldiers in the village of Gretush (Pogradec).

SECURITY INFORMATION
SECRET
~~K A P O K~~


3. Information gathered by

3. Information gathered by Willow Tree - not to be disseminated

a. O/a 20 June a gun battle took place between Kozel and Nikolice. Police, security forces, special pursuit detachments and armed civilians surrounded a reactionary team of 4 men. Three members of the team were killed in the gun battle while the fourth man, after having spent all of his ammunition, called to the security forces that he was ready to surrender. As the members of the pursuit detachment moved forward to take him, the man shouted that he would never "surrender to dogs" and took his own life with poison. The four men were taken to Kamenic where they were strapped on horseback and taken in the direction of Korca. Willow was able to learn from friends that the fourth man had fought alone for about 3 hours before taking his own life. Willow was further able to add that one of the men was tall with reddish-blond hair. This man had a radio strapped to his back. Willow had no other information concerning this group. Our interest has been aroused because the area where the action took place and the dates jibe with our last position report from Apple/3. On the other hand the size of the group and the description of the man with the radio set would lead us to believe that it could be the Orange-Plum group.

b. In further connection with the above, it was ascertained from the Greek border officer in the strictest confidence that a group of unknown size had four men killed at Vithkug. The Greek border officer further stated that RNPULOG was definitely one of the men who were killed. We are at the present time trying very discreetly to get more information from this particular officer and at the same time question the warrant officer who surrendered to Willow concerning any activity in the area.

c. Operationally Willow performed its task as well as can be expected from a team of its calibre. It was gratifying to see that their net had not suffered during their long absence from the country. Furthermore, the team was able to definitely determine that Sabadin Gjonmash was not to be trusted.

 d. Willow Tree, through one of its contacts Skender Mohamut Shehu, made contact with Captain 2nd class Qerim Tsano of the Korca "peoples' defense unit." Tsano informed Shehu that he could get information for the group and also asked for instructions from the outside. We are quite hesitant about exploiting this contact unless further information concerning subject is obtained. We would greatly appreciate any information that Headquarters can furnish regarding Qerim Tsano.

e. Willow's report that all units, police, security and armed civilians are joining with the special pursuit detachments in search of reactionary teams certainly is an indication that infiltrations are going to become even more difficult. However, it is this writer's opinion that the difficulty comes not so much from security measures as the fact that the area in question is saturated with Greek sponsored teams.

~~K A P O K~~

SECURITY INFORMATION
SECRET

SGAA-5418
Page 5

AUG 7 1953

f. As previously mentioned and as reported in reference, one Riza Dule, W/O from Rodoni (Permet) left Korca on 25 July in an attempt to cross into Greece. Sometime shortly after crossing the Greek border Dule saw what he believed to be a Greek patrol and he called to them that he wished to surrender. The patrol turned out to be Willow Tree group who promptly took charge of the man and prior to turning subject over to the Greek authorities began a preliminary interrogation. Willow's interrogation of Dule will not be forwarded until a complete interrogation is carried on by our Intelligence Section.

g. Following is a list of Willow's contacts with the services each provided:

Team?
X Mehmet Ali (Kamenic) supplied team with newspapers, food and information for which he received 10 gold pounds.

X Istref Metka (Kamenic) furnished the team with Lek, food and information. He received from the team 10 gold pounds and 22 U.S. Dollars.

X Ali Riza Selimi (Kamenic) supplied the team with bread, information and newspapers and he received 4 gold pounds.

X Shefik Asslani (Kamenic) furnished a newspaper and some information. Subject was given 4 gold pounds.

X Ilmi Sulloli (Voskop) provided food for the team and received from the team 10 gold pounds.

X Ferit Petrit (Skoze) supplied the team with food and made contact with Skender Mahamut Shehu possible - subject received from the team 5 gold pounds.

(Mehmet)
X Skender Mahamut Shehu (Kamenic) supplied the team with information, various books which have P/W value and made the contact with Captain 2nd class Qerim Tsano possible. Subject received for his services 5 gold pounds.

h. Other persons receiving money for services rendered or for future services to the team were:

- (TRESOVA)*
- X Ramadan Bajrami, 5 gold pounds
 - X Qemal Hoxha (family), 5 gold pounds
 - X Adem Agolli, 5 gold pounds
 - X Gani Muharrem, 1 gold pound
 - X Sherif Kalo, 1 gold pound
 - X Zenel Aliu, 2 gold pounds

i. In addition Willow had the following expenditures at the border:

SECURITY INFORMATION

SECRET

~~K A P O K~~

Meals for the

~~K A P O K~~

SECURITY INFORMATION

SGAA- 5418
Page 6

Meals for the group on 3 and 4 July plus the following items which they would carry with them inside the country. 20 okas of bread, 1 can of olives, 3 okas cheese, 1 bottle spirits, 2 okas peaches, 11 cans of meat, 1 oka of chocolate plus various amounts of salt, sugar, coffee and tobacco.

The team returned to Athens with 1/2 gold piece and 126,500 in drachmae.

The Willow operation in terms of money cost BGFIEND 70 gold pounds and 25 U. S. dollars minus the above mentioned return. The value of the gold pound is 6.80 dollars.

j. To summarize the value of this operation, the following points are Made:

- (1) Lek which has been badly needed for study was procured.
- (2) Information that HTGRUBBY is heard was confirmed.
- (3) Newspapers and books brought back by Willow have definite P/W value.
- (4) The operational information gained will aid in filtration of Fig Tree.
- (5) The contact made with Captain Tsano may be the opening to other avenues of activity.
- (6) Information which may lead us to determining the fate of one of our lost teams.
- (7) Valid I.D. card for study.

4. Positive information gained from this operation was very slight but then we must remember that Willow was originally set up as a P/W team. In the opinion of this office the Willow operation justified the time, money and effort expended. A very detailed report was furnished so that Headquarters may evaluate the worth of such an operation and further direct our efforts so that KUBARK's needs are met.

3 August 1953

LBR ~~W~~
LBR/WFH/lgk

SECURITY INFORMATION
SECRET

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Distribution:

- 3 - Washington ✓
- 1 - Washington (vital documents)
- 1 - Chrono, 1-Subject, 1-XO, 2-BGFIEND